

WE CLAIM:

1. A catheter retainer suitable for holding a catheter in a predetermined position within a mammary duct of a human breast, the catheter retainer comprising:
 - 5 a spacer positionable about the catheter sized for receiving a portion of the catheter, and having a distal end portion for contacting the breast and a proximal end; and
 - 10 an anchor operatively engageable at the proximal end portion of the spacer with a catheter received within the spacer and removably securable to the breast.
2. The catheter retainer of claim 1, wherein the spacer is flexible.
3. The catheter retainer of claim 1, wherein the spacer is a plug of a compressible elastomer.
- 15 4. The catheter retainer of claim 3, wherein the compressible elastomer is polyurethane foam.
5. The catheter retainer of claim 3, wherein the spacer defines a slit for receiving the catheter.
- 20 6. The catheter retainer of claim 1, wherein the spacer includes an adhesive on the distal end thereof for removably securing the spacer to the breast.
7. The catheter retainer of claim 1, wherein the anchor is removably engageable with the catheter.
- 25 8. The catheter retainer of claim 7, wherein the anchor defines an aperture through which a portion of the catheter is received.
9. The catheter retainer of claim 1, wherein the anchor includes an adhesive for removably securing the anchor to the breast.
10. The catheter retainer of claim 1, wherein the anchor and spacer are integral with one another.
- 30 11. The catheter retainer of claim 1, wherein an intermediate portion of the catheter is received by the spacer.

12. A kit comprising:
 - a catheter,
 - a flexible spacer for receiving a portion of the catheter and having a distal end portion and a proximal end portion;
 - 5 an anchor operatively engageable with the catheter and removably securable to the breast; and
 - the spacer and the anchor, in concert, substantially maintaining a predetermined position of the catheter in the mammary duct.
13. The kit of claim 12, wherein the flexible spacer is a substantially cylindrical plug of a compressible elastomer.
14. The kit of claim 13, wherein the flexible spacer defines a slit for receiving an intermediate portion of the catheter.
15. The kit of claim 12, wherein the spacer includes an adhesive on the distal end thereof for removably securing the spacer to the human breast.
16. The kit of claim 12, wherein the anchor is removably engageable with the catheter.
17. The kit of claim 16, wherein the anchor defines an aperture through which a portion of the catheter can extend.
18. The kit of claim 12, wherein the anchor includes an adhesive for removably securing the anchor to the breast.
20. 19. The kit of claim 12, wherein the catheter includes a hub.
20. The kit of claim 19, wherein the hub defines a through passage in fluid communication with the catheter.
25. 21. The kit of claim 19, wherein the through passage terminates as a luer taper.
22. The kit of claim 12, wherein the catheter includes a stop member for limiting extension of the catheter through the aperture defined by the anchor.
30. 23. The kit of claim 22, wherein the stop member is an annular detent.
24. The kit of claim 12, wherein the spacer is a spring member.
25. The kit of claim 24, wherein the spacer is a leaf spring.

26. The kit of claim 12, wherein the anchor and spacer are integral with one another.

27. The catheter retainer of claim 12, wherein an intermediate portion of the catheter is received by the spacer.

5 28. A retainer comprising suitable for use in a ductal lavage or nipple fluid aspiration procedure in association with a catheter introduced into a mammary duct of a human breast and comprising:

10 a spacer for receiving a portion of the catheter, and
an anchor operatively engageable with the catheter and removably securable to the breast;

the spacer and the anchor, in concert, substantially maintaining the catheter at a predetermined position in the mammary duct.

29. The catheter retainer of claim 28, wherein the flexible spacer is a cylindrical plug of a compressible elastomer.

15 30. The catheter retainer of claim 29, wherein the flexible spacer defines a slit for receiving an intermediate portion of the catheter.

31. The catheter retainer of claim 28, wherein the spacer includes an adhesive for removably securing the spacer to the human breast.

20 32. The catheter retainer of claim 28, wherein the anchor is removably engageable with the catheter.

33. The catheter retainer of claim 32, wherein the anchor defines an aperture for receiving a portion of the catheter.

34. The catheter retainer of claim 28, wherein the anchor includes an adhesive for removably securing the anchor to the breast and to the catheter.

25 35. The catheter retainer of claim 28, wherein the anchor and spacer are integral with one another.

36. The catheter retainer of claim 28, wherein an intermediate portion of the catheter is received by the spacer.